

This year, 1999, marks the centennial of the birth of Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington—pianist, composer, conductor and bandleader, whose music is the quintessential expression of American culture. Ellington's musical legacy is a gift to the world (for those who would take the time to listen) but a special challenge to those of us who seek to solve the mysteries of his compositional genius.

To a pianist whose primary choice of musical expression is jazz, the Ellington legacy can be like a labyrinth (i.e., what do I play?, how do I play it?, etc...). While negotiating my teenage years as a narcissistic BeBopper, my view of Duke Ellington was that of a senior citizen whose band would perform in New Orleans at least once a year. The epitome of sartorial splendor, he was to be admired, respected and praised for his elegance, sophistication, urbane hipness and, after all, his band did swing. However, since his music was not a part of the BeBop canon, my peers and I spent our time attempting to solve the musical mysteries of Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Bud Powell, Tadd Dameron and their numerous disciples.

It would be a few years down the road before I would grow into a state of unconditional respect for the music as well as the man. It would be even more years before I summoned the courage to embrace the musical legacy of Ellington as a solo pianist. I hope you enjoy my Ellington recital.

—Ellis L. Marsalis, Jr.

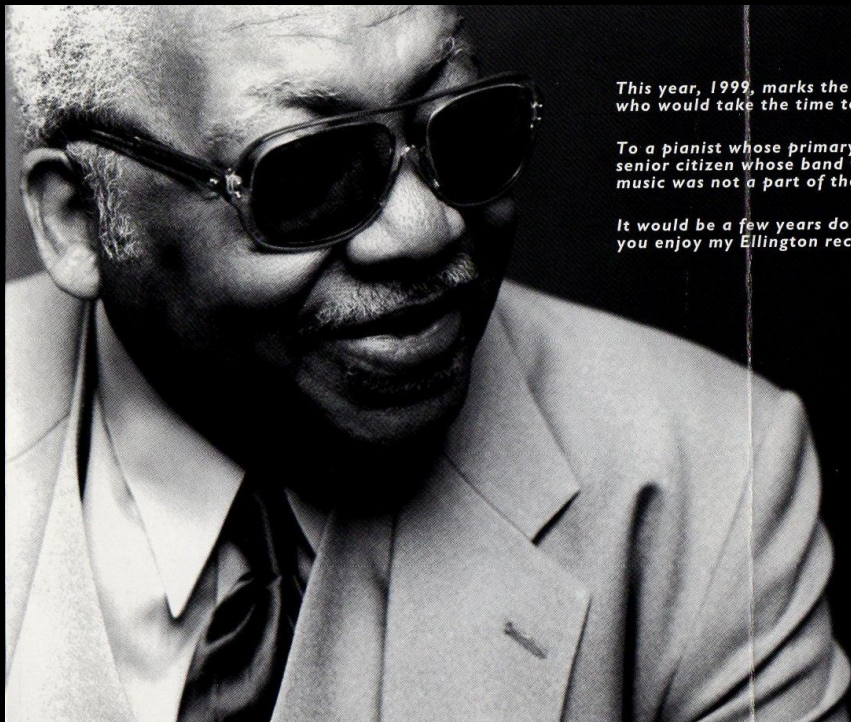
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I must do thank my family, with extra special kudos to my wife Dolores, whose continued support is indispensable to my career, both performance and academic. I wish to acknowledge the music faculty staff at the University of New Orleans—Phil Collins, Dean Gregory O'Brien, Chancelor Lou Prudon, Proctor and the entire UNO community. In support of this support: Jeff Lewinson, Gabrielle Armand, Rene Arsenault, Michelle D'Annunzio, Kerwin Beck, Lynda Garcia, Barry M. White and Akeolu Atison.

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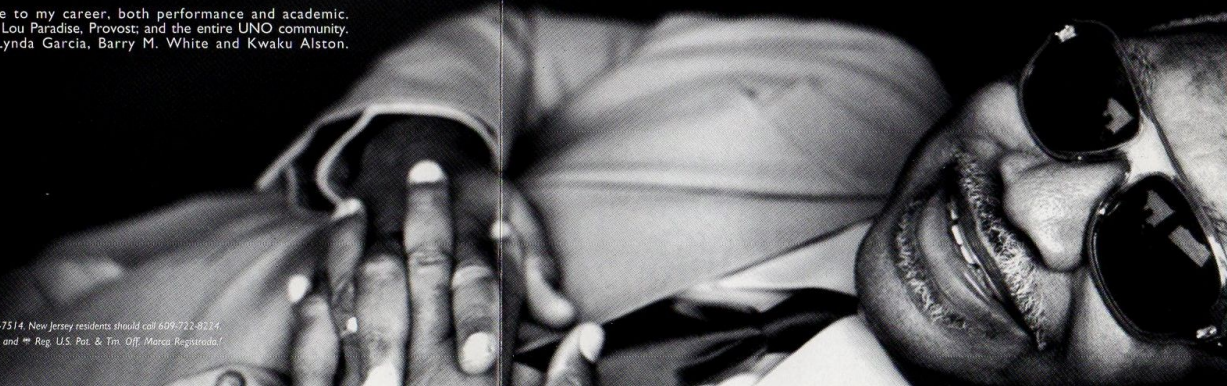
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1. THE MOOCHE

-Edward Kennedy Ellington-
-Irving Mills-
EMI Mills Music, Inc. /
Famous Music Corp. (ASCAP)

2. PRELUDE TO A KISS

-Irving Mills-Irving Gordon-
-Edward Kennedy Ellington-
EMI Mills Music, Inc. /
Famous Music Corp. (ASCAP)

3. SQUATTY ROO

-Johnny Hodges-
EMI Mills Music, Inc. (ASCAP)

**4. SOPHISTICATED
LADY**

-Edward Kennedy Ellington-
-Mitchell Parish-
-Irving Mills-
Famous Music Corp. /
EMI Mills Music, Inc. (ASCAP)

**5. JUST SQUEEZE ME
(BUT DON'T TEASE ME)**

-Edward Kennedy Ellington-
-Lee Gaines-
EMI Robbins Catalog Inc.
(ASCAP)

6. MOOD INDIGO

-Edward Kennedy Ellington-
-Irving Mills-Barney Bigard-
EMI Mills Music, Inc. / Famous
Music Corp. / Indigo Mood Music
(ASCAP)

7. CARAVAN

-Edward Kennedy Ellington-
-Juan Tizol-
EMI Mills Music, Inc. /
Famous Music Corp. (ASCAP)

8. COME SUNDAY

-Edward Kennedy Ellington-
G. Schirmer Inc. (ASCAP)

9. CREOLE LOVE CALL

-Edward Kennedy Ellington-
Famous Music Corp. (ASCAP)

10. REFLECTIONS IN D

-Edward Kennedy Ellington-
Famous Music Corp. (ASCAP)

**11. DROP ME OFF IN
HARLEM**

-Edward Kennedy Ellington-
-Nick Kenny-
EMI Mills Music, Inc. / Famous
Music Corp. (ASCAP)

12. MELANCHOLIA

-Edward Kennedy Ellington-
Famous Music Corp. (ASCAP)



**13. MEDLEY: I'M
BEGINNING TO SEE
THE LIGHT / DO
NOTHIN' TIL YOU
HEAR FROM ME /
IN A MELLOW TONE**

-Edward Kennedy Ellington-
-Harry James-Don George-
-Johnny Hodges-Bob Russell-
Chappell & Co. / Famous Music
Corp. / EMI Robbins Catalog
Inc. / Harrison Music Corp. /
EMI Mills Music, Inc. (ASCAP)

14. DUKE IN BLUE

-Ellis Marsalis-
Branwynn Music
(ASCAP)

ELLIS MARSALIS - PIANO

PRODUCED BY DELFEAYO MARSALIS

Recorded March 23 and 24, 1999, at
The Performing Arts Center,
University Of New Orleans
Engineered by Patrick Smith
Mastered at Artistic Studios, New Orleans

Art Direction: Kerstin Bach
Photography: Kwaku Alston
Stylist: Cannon

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- 1.** *The Mooche* (5:17)
- 2.** *Prelude To A Kiss* (5:58)
- 3.** *Squatty Roo* (2:53)
- 4.** *Sophisticated Lady* (5:10)
- 5.** *Just Squeeze Me (But Don't Tease Me)* (5:16)
- 6.** *Mood Indigo* (4:11)
- 7.** *Caravan* (4:52)
- 8.** *Come Sunday* (2:36)
- 9.** *Creole Love Call* (3:54)
- 10.** *Reflections In D* (3:42)
- 11.** *Drop Me Off In Harlem* (3:35)
- 12.** *Melancholia* (4:27)
- 13.** *MEDLEY: I'm Beginning To See The Light / Do Nothin' Til You Hear From Me / In A Mellow Tone* (3:49)
- 14.** *Duke In Blue* (3:24)

DUKE IN BLUE

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